COVID-19 STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Program: PI/Lab Director
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I am a theoretical physics researcher, meaning I do not typically a dedicated research lab space. However, I do advise undergraduate and graduate research students and collaborate with them on various research projects, and some of my research takes place in libraries, seminar rooms, and meeting rooms.

SPACE AND EQUIPMENT SAFETY

1. DISTANCING: I plan to continue to work from home when possible, but if in the office I will not meet with others in my SER 236 office space, as it is too small to maintain social distancing. If I do need a face-to-face meeting, it will take place in the Department of Physics seminar room SER 244, which is larger and has a table that can help institute 6’ distancing between people in the space. I will not have more than one person at a time visit me in this office, and if such a visit should occur, I would wear a mask and ask that the person with whom I meet wear one too.

2. EQUIPMENT: I will use only my personal electronic devices and am not visiting the USU library in person for the time being. If I do need materials from the library, I will use the Library’s ILLIAD system to page them ahead of time and limit my interactions to picking up the required materials if electronic materials cannot be provided.

3. STUDENT RESEARCHERS: I will not ask any student researcher to meet with me in person; instead, I will offer ZOOM, SKYPE, text, or voice chat as substitutes for F2F interaction.

4. TRAVEL: much of the research work I develop involves attending national and international conferences and workshops. All these activities have been suspended. Also, all the members of the Black Hole Theory Group that I lead have been instructed not to attend any graduate summer schools or scientific meetings. The summer internship of one of the undergraduate students is now being hosted online.
PERSONAL HYGIENE AND PPE

- Aside from following standard good hygiene practices as outlined by the CDC (frequent handwashing, sanitization of surfaces, social distancing, cloth mask when in public), I plan to limit my exposure during research by pursuing only those aspects of my current work that are feasible in a remote setting: no visits to libraries, archives, or museums, working principally with digitized materials.

TIME MANAGEMENT

- As an individual researcher, I do not have a team. However, I used to hold weekly Group Meetings with the team of students that are conducting research under my supervision. I have hosted, since March 2020 all Group meetings online and instructed all members in the group to hold any meetings/discussion on Skype/Zoom.

WORKER HEALTH

- I will make a point to remind my research advisees about following best practices of hygiene and prevention. All meetings will be held remotely. Frequent mental and physical health check ins will keep me up to date on their status.